

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims, if entered, replaces all prior versions of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

creating a unique session identifier for a user, wherein

the unique session identifier is created by one of a plurality of network access servers; and

the unique session identifier is created in a manner that prevents more than one of the network access servers from creating a same unique session identifier
~~unique with respect to a plurality of network access servers; and~~

providing the unique session identifier to an Authentication, Authorization, and

Accounting (AAA) module, wherein

each of the network access servers is configured to request AAA processing from the AAA module.

2. (Currently Amended) The method recited in Claim 1, wherein:

the creating the unique session identifier further comprises appending a unique identifier to a local session identifier, and

the unique identifier is associated with the one of the network access servers, ~~and the one of the network access servers generates the unique session identifier.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method recited in Claim 2, wherein:

the unique identifier is an IP address of the one of the network access servers.

4. (Original) The method recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

providing the unique session identifier to an off-load server.

5. (Previously Presented) The method recited in Claim 1, wherein:

creating a unique session identifier further comprises creating a unique session identifier for each of the network access servers.

6. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:
a network access server
wherein the network access server is configured to generate a unique session identifier
for a user;
wherein the unique session identifier is created in a manner that prevents more than one
of a plurality of network access servers from creating a same unique session
identifier unique with respect to a plurality of network access servers,
wherein the plurality of network access servers include the network access server;
wherein the network access server is configured to provide the unique session identifier
to an AAA module; and
wherein the AAA module performs AAA processing for each of the plurality of network
access servers.

7. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 6, wherein:
the network access server is associated with an IP address; and
the unique session identifier comprises the IP address.

8. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 6, further comprising:
the plurality of network access servers;
wherein each of the plurality of network access servers is configured to generate a
corresponding unique session identifier.

9. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 6, further comprising:
an off-load server, the off-load server being coupled to receive the unique session
identifier from the network access server.

10. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 9, wherein:
the off-load server is configured to provide the unique session identifier to the AAA
module.

11. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 9, wherein:

the off-load server is configured to provide the unique session identifier to the AAA module, and
the AAA module is configured to perform port counting.

12. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 6, further comprising:
the AAA module, the AAA module being further configured to receive the unique session identifier from the network access server.

13. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 6, wherein:
the network access server is further configured to generate the unique session identifier by appending an IP address of the network access server to a local session identifier.

14. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 9, wherein:
the off-load server is further configured to generate a start record, the off-load server being further configured to associate the start record with the unique session identifier; and
the off-load server is further configured to provide the start record to the AAA module that provides for performing accounting processing.

15. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 9, further wherein:
the off-load server is further configured to generate a stop record, the off-load server being further configured to associate the stop record with the unique session identifier; and
the off-load server is further configured to provide the stop record to the AAA module that provides for performing accounting processing.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
means for creating a unique session identifier for a user, wherein
the unique session identifier is created in a manner that prevents more than one of a plurality of network access servers from creating a same unique session identifier ~~unique with respect to a plurality of network access servers~~; and

means for providing the unique session identifier to an AAA module, wherein
each of the network access servers is configured to request AAA processing from
the AAA module.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus recited in Claim 16, wherein:
means for creating a unique session identifier further comprises means for appending a
unique identifier associated with a network access server to a local session
identifier.

18. (Original) The apparatus recited in Claim 17 wherein:
the unique identifier is an IP address.

19. (Original) The apparatus recited in Claim 16, further comprising:
means for providing the unique session identifier to an off-load server.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus recited in Claim 16, wherein:
means for creating a unique session identifier further comprises means for creating a
unique session identifier for each of the network access devices.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, encoded in computer readable
media, comprising:
a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to create a unique
session identifier for a user, wherein
the unique session identifier is created in a manner that prevents more than one of
a plurality of network access servers from creating a same unique session
identifier ~~unique with respect to a plurality of network access servers~~; and
a second set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to provide the
unique session identifier to an AAA module, wherein
each of the network access servers is configured to request AAA processing from
the AAA module.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable media, wherein:

the first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, is further configured to
append a unique identifier associated with one of the network access servers to a
local session identifier.

23. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable media, wherein:

the unique identifier is an IP address.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable media, further comprising:

a third set of instructions, executable on a computer system configured to provide the
unique session identifier to an off-load server.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable media, wherein:

the first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, is further configured to
create a unique session identifier for each of the network access servers.